

# Money Matters

## Wages are Important

By Lecia Langston

**If you want you combine home and family (or just have enough extra cash to hire a housekeeper), choose a career with high wages!**

### The Fable of Jane and Susan

Here's a little fable. Jane grew up knowing that she wanted to be a mother. She thought she would marry a rich man and be staying home taking care of her children. She didn't think she'd need an education or a career. She got married right out of high school to the man of her dreams and had a baby girl.

Time for a reality check. Like most married women with children in Utah, Jane needed to work to make ends meet. She got a job at the local discount store as a cashier and, after a while, earned the Utah average wage for that occupation—\$8 an hour. She had few benefits and no retirement plan. To make enough money, Jane had to work 40 hours a week—mostly when her husband was off work so he could take care of the baby. They couldn't afford child care. Even though she didn't see much of her husband, she grossed \$320 a week—before taxes and other deductions.

Susan went to high school with Jane. Susan too grew up knowing that she wanted to be a mother. But, she also realized that she would probably be working outside the home—like most mothers in Utah. She chose a high-paying career, finished college and went to work as a computer hardware engineer. She got great pay, had good benefits, and could count on a retirement income—when that day finally came. THEN she got married and had a baby boy.

Susan's employer valued her work skills and was willing to let Susan cut back her hours. She ended up working only 20 hours a week at the Utah average wage for computer hardware engineers—\$29 an hour. So, while Jane was making \$320 working a grueling 40 hours each week (and on her feet all day), Susan worked only 20 hours a week and at the same time grossed \$1,160 a week—two-and-a-half times more than Jane for half the work. Who would you like to be?

### You Get My Point

I'm sure you get my point. Wages are important when choosing a career—especially if you plan on having a family or already have children.

Where can you find out how much a job pays? If you plan on staying in Utah, your first stop should be the Department of Workforce Services website. Just go to:

<http://jobs.utah.gov/jsp/wi/utalmis/default.do>

Here you can look up entry and average wages for a vast array of occupations in our database. You can find wages for jobs in your own particular area. You can also print out flyers that list occupations and their pay. Take the time look at wages as you plan your career.

### A List

The following list shows the 20 highest-paying occupations in Utah. These occupations generally require graduation from college with at least a Bachelor's degree. In many cases, additional training, certification, or professional licensing may also be required. Besides formal training, some high-paying occupations require management responsibilities.

The greatest numbers of high-paying jobs are found in the broad occupational categories of healthcare practitioners, management, business operations, and financial/professional.

Take charge of your life and career! Choose a high-paying occupation and get the proper training, instead of settling for a low-paying one.

Utah Occupations with the Highest Statewide Average Hourly Wage:	
Obstetricians and Gynecologists	\$93
Surgeons	\$93
Internists, General	\$77
Anesthesiologists	\$75
Pediatricians, General	\$71
Family and General Practitioners	\$66
Podiatrists	\$62
Lawyers	\$60
Psychiatrists	\$58
Air Traffic Controllers	\$43
Engineering Managers	\$39
Optometrists	\$38
Real Estate Brokers	\$38
Marketing Managers	\$38
Computer and Information Systems Managers	\$36
Pharmacists	\$36
Natural Sciences Managers	\$35
Securities, commodities, financial services sales agents	\$34
Computer Software Engineers, Applications	\$34
General and Operations Managers	\$33
Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services.	